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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY APPROVED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY

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FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 5431 ACTION SECSTATE 28 APR 75 QUOTE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 5431

E O 11652: N/A TAGS: AEMG

SUBJ: E & E - PHILIPPINE NOTE ON GUIDELINES FOR EVACUEES AT BASES IN PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 5098

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE APRIL 28 OUTLINING UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING OF REFUGGEES THROUGH U.S. BASES AND REQUESTING A FORMALIZATION OF US/RP UNDERSTANDINGS ON THIS SUBJECT. FULL TEXT OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE VERBALE DATED APRIL 21, 1975 CONCERNING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE EVACUATION OF CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE NATIONALS PASSING THROUGH THE UNITED STATES BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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QUOTE IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR THE SAID EVACUEES TO PASS THROUGH THE BASES WITHOUT THE USUAL FORMALITIES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME ON

THEIR WAY TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, AND BECAUSE OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF THE CASE. HOWEVER, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO FORMALIZE ITS REQUEST ON THE MATTER.

QUOTE IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE EVACUEES WOULD NOT INCLUDE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND POLITICAL REFUGEES AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PREFERENCE ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVACUEES. IT IS ALSO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE EVACUEES AND THEIR EVACUATION TO ANOTHER PORT OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THEY WILL NOT STAY IN THE PHILIPPINES BEYOND THREE DAYS, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BASES, AND THAT TO AVOID THE STAY AT THE BASES OF LARGE NUMBERS OF EVACUEES, THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE ALL MEASURES TO FLY THEM DIRECTLY TO GUAM OR TO ANOTHER DESTINATION.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGEST CONSIDERATION. MANILA, 26 APRIL 1975 UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: NEW NOTE REPRESENTS BOTH AN INCREASING AWARENESS AND CONCERN OF GOP ABOUT THE BUILDUP OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS AT CLARK AND SUBIC, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS A SOFTENING OF THE EARLIER VERY RESTRICTIVE LINE RESPECTING NUMBERS AND TRANSIT TIMES SPECIFIED IN THEIR PREVIOUS NOTE. THIS HELPFUL TREND OF GOP ATTITUDE COULD WELL FALTER AND REVERSE, HOWEVER, IF WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EARLY DRAWDOWN OF NUMBERS NOW CONTINUING TO BUILD AT BOTH CLARK AND SUBIC.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE PROPOSE ANSWER DFA NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES (FORMAL OPENING AND CLOSE OMITTED). BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DEEP APPRECIATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND FOREBEARANCE SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DURING THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME, AND FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BEING MADE TO ASSIST EVACUEES FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.

QUOTE IT IS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS THAT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT PRESENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MOVEMENT OF SUCH EVACUEES THROUGH U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE CONFINED TO THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE PERIOD OF TIME.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ASSURED, MOREOVER, THAT THE EMBASSY AND ALL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRANSPORT ALL SUCH EVACUEES BEYOND THE PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

QUOTE IN SUPPORT OF THESE EFFORTS, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE ITS MOST HELPFUL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY RESPECTING THE CLEARANCE OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT FOR ENTRY INTO AND TRANSIT OF DESIGNATED POINTS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

QUOTE THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO UNDERTAKE PERIODIC INSPECTION OF FACILITIES NOW BEING USED BY REFUGEES AND HAS ASKED THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS AT CLARK AND SUBIC TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. END QUOTE

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: AS NOTED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE FILIPINO POSTURE HAS SOFTENED CONSIDERABLY AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO BEAR WITH US, IF WE SHOW THAT WE ARE MAKING GENUINE AND DILIGENT EFFORTS TO MOVE REFUGEES OUT OF PHILIPPINES. WHILE OUR REPLY IS SOFTLY STATED, WE EXPECT FILIPINOS TO TAKE IT AS A PRACTICALLY IRONCLAD ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THEIR CONCERNS AND THAT WE WILL GET ON WITH THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS POSSIBLE DRAWDOWN OF NUMBERS NOW IN PHILIPPINES. WE REQUEST IMMEDIATE DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE OF OUR PROPOSED TEXT ON THIS UNDERSTANDING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MILITARY BASES, EVACUATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE098743

Document Number: 1975STATE098743 Document Source: ADS Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: n/a

Film Number: D750149-0844

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504104/baaaaifk.tel Line Count: 144 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN PM Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: RowellE0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags Review Date: 23 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: n/a

TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, MARR, VS, RP, US To: MAC SCOTT AFB Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006